

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CONAKR 00698 01 OF 02 071521 Z

51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 EB-11

COME-00 AGR-20 INT-08 OPIC-12 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /156 W

----- 125342

R 071350 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8650
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CONAKRY 0698

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR US GV

SUBJECT : US- GUINEA RELATIONS

SUMMARY: DURING MAY 5 CALL BY AF/ W DIRECTOR AGGREY AND
AMBASSADOR PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE REPEATED FAMILIAR THEMES OF
GUINEA' S REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY, CONTINUING FIGHT FOR INDE-
PENDENCE AND UNREMITTING STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND
NEO- COLONIALISM. TOURE CITED HIS APPRECIATION FOR US AID
AND FRIENDSHIP SINCE GUINEA OPTED OUT OF FRENCH UNION IN
1958 BUT CLAIMED IN CONTEXT BILATERAL RELATIONS GUINEA HAD
MORE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED ITS FRIENDSHIP (SIC) WHILE US
AMITY APPARENTLY CONDITIONED BY RELATIONS WITH OTHERS. HE
HOPED FOR EARLY VISIT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM FOR
FURTHER EXAMINATION OF US- GUINEA RELATIONS. AGGREY STRESSED
IMPORTANCE US ATTACHED TO EFFECTIVE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL
RELATIONS WITH GUINEA. CONTRARY TO REPEATED SUGGESTIONS OF
DOUBT FROM OFFICIAL GUINEAN SOURCES, US RESPECTED GUINEA' S
INDEPENDENCE AND DID NOT SUPPORT OR CONDONE PLOTS TO OVERTHROW
TOURE REGIME. TOURE AGREED TO AGGREY' S PROPOSITION THAT
WHILE US AND GUINEA DIFFERED ON NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CONAKR 00698 01 OF 02 071521 Z

POLITICAL ISSUES, THIS SHOULD NOT PREVENT CONTINUING FRANK COMMUNICATION AND ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE RECEIVED AF/ W DIRECTOR AGGREY ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR FOR ONE HOUR EXCHANGE EARLY EVENING 5 MAY. PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI AND FONMIN FIFY SISSOKO ALSO PRESENT. MEETING OCCURRED ALMOST EXACTLY TWO YEARS AFTER AGGREY' S PREVIOUS CALL ON GUINEA PRESIDENT AND IN MUCH MORE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE. WHAT IN MAY 1971 WAS MAP- STREWN WAR ROOM IS NOW MODERN RECEPTION AND COUNCIL SALON DECORATED WITH PHOTOGRAPH OF LENIN AS WELL AS BRIGHT OIL PORTRAITS OF LUMUMBA, TKASTRO AND OF TOURE LEADING DEFENSE AGAINST 1970 SEA- BORNE ATTACK ON CONAKRY. INSTEAD OF MILITARY KHAKI OF THE IMMEDIATE POST- INVASION PERIOD, THE THREE GUINEAN LEADERS WERE IN RELAXED TROPICAL TWO- PIECE TENUE.

2. AGGREY DELIVERED USG' S GREETINGS TO TOURE AND CONVEYED NEWSOM' S REGRET THAT POSTPONEMENT BOKE INAUGURATION AND CONCURRENT OBLIGATIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONEY HAD PREVENTED ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND OTHER HIGH USG OFFICIALS FROM BEING IN CONAKRY AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, VISIT TO GUINEA WAS CLEARLY IN NEWSOM' S MIND AND TIMING WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH GOG LATER. AGGREY NOTED CONTINUING IMPORTANCE US ATTACHED TO ITS RELATIONS WITH GUINEA. DURING PAST YEAR WE HAD WELCOMED MISSION OF ECONOMICS MINISTER ISMAEL TOURE WHICH ENABLED VARIOUS AGENCIES USG AND AMERICAN PRIVATE FIRMS TO HAVE DIRECT DIALOGUE ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OUR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. WITH GUINEA EMBASSY WE WERE FOLLOWING UP ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS RAISED BY ISMAEL. PL-480 PROGRAM NOW IN FORCE AND WE ACTIVELY DISCUSSING IN WASHINGTON WITH GOG OFFICIAL MOUNTAGA KEITA BEST MEANS OF COMPLIANCE TO QUALIFY FOR FY-1974 REQUEST. AGGREY THANKED TOURE FOR TREATMENT ACCORDED AMBASSADOR AND CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH HIM IN INTEREST OF BETTER RELATIONS.

3. AFTER WELCOMING AGGREY BACK TO GUINEA, TOURE GAVE ABBREVIATED VERSION HIS STANDARD BRIEFING ON GUINEA' S HISTORY, PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVIES. SAID RESTORATION RELATIONS WITH FRANCE DEPENDED ONLY UPON HIS SENDING EMISSARY TO PARIS AND

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CONAKR 00698 01 OF 02 071521 Z

ACCEPTING CONDITIONS POSED BY FRENCH GOVT, BUT THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF COMPROMISING GUINEA' S INDEPENDENCE OR OF RESUMING RELATIONS SO LONG AS FRANCE SOUGHT DEMISE OF HIS REGIME. HE ARDENTLY DEFENDED RIGHT OF NEIGHBORS LIKE SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST TO PURSUE THEIR NATIONAL OBJECTIVES THOUGH REGIMES UNLIKE GUINEA' S BUT UNFORTUNATELY SIMILAR ATTITUDE NOT ADOPTED TOWARD HIS REGIME. FOR EXAMPLE HE

HAD JUST RECEIVED LETTER FROM GUINEAN PROFESSOR IN ABIDJAN GIVING " IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE" OF ANTI- REGIME ACTIVITIES BY GUINEAN DISSIDENT GROUPS. GUINEA IS OPPOSED BECAUSE OF ITS POLITICAL OPTIONS IN DEFENSE OF DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE EVERYWHERE AS WELL AS BECAUSE OF ITS ECONOMIC ORIENTATION AND POTENTIAL MINERAL WEALTH WHICH COVETED BY MANY. THUS ONE OBJECTIVES OF 1970 INVASION WAS TO GAIN CONTROL OF MOUNT NIMBA SIMANDU IRON ORE RESERVES AND EXPORT THEM THROUGH NEW IVORIAN PORT OF SAN PEDRO. EVEN NOW SEVERAL LARGE FOREIGN FIRMS WERE REFUSING TO PARTICIPATE WITH GUINEA ON REASON- ABLE TERMS IN EXPLOITATION OF IRON ORE RESERVES AND INSTEAD WERE HOLDING OUT IN HOPE OR EXPECTATION OF CHANGE IN HIS REGIME.

4. TOURE SAID NO NATION COULD SUBVERT GUINEA'S REVOLUTION AND INDEPENDENCE IF US DECIDED OTHERWISE. WERE HE ABLE TO EXCHANGE ROLES WITH US LEADERS HE COULD GUARANTEE GUINEA'S REVOLUTION WOULD NOT BE SUBVERTED. HOWEVER, HE REALIZED USG SUBJECTED TO PRESSURES FROM MANY SOURCES. HE RESPECTED AND TRUSTED ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM AND AMBASSADOR TODMAN AND KNEW IF US POLICY DEPENDED ONLY UPON THEIR JUDGMENT

US AND GUINEA WOULD BE MUCH MORE STAUNCH FRIENDS. TWICE HE HAD INVITED NEWSOM PERSONALLY TO COME TO GUINEA FOR IMPORTANT NATIONAL OCCASIONS. KEY OFFICIAL OF MOST OTHER STATES WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED IMMEDIATELY. BUT TWICE NEWSOM HAD REGRETTEED. HE ACCEPTED REASONS GIVEN BUT WONDERED IF BEHIND REGRETS THERE WERE NOT SOME MORE FUNDAMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS SUCH AS PRESSURES ON USG FROM GUINEAN DISSIDENTS, OR OTHER COUNTRIES OF ELEMENTS OPPOSED TO HIS REGIME. BECAUSE OF HIS FRIENDSHIP FOR NEWWOM AND FULL CONFIDENCE IN HIM, IT WOULD BE WELL FOR THE TWO TO SIT AND TALK FRANKLY ABOUT WHAT CONSIDERATIONS WERE PREVENTING DEVELOPMENT OF CLOSER RELATIONS. WHAT COULD BE CHANGED AND WOULD BE AND AT LEAST OBSTACLES AND DIFFERENCES WOULD BE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CONAKR 00698 01 OF 02 071521 Z

KNOWN AND FACED OPENLY. TOURE SAID HE HAD SPOKEN FRANKLY AND AS FRIEND.
TODMAN

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

ADP000
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CONAKR 00698 02 OF 02 071539 Z

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 EB-11

COME-00 AGR-20 INT-08 OPIC-12 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /156 W

----- 125482

R 071350 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8651

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CONAKRY 0698

5. AGGREY THANKED GUINEAN PRESIDENT FOR HIS FRANKNESS AND SAID HE WOULD REPLY WITH SIMILAR CANDOR. USG RESPECTED GUINEA'S INDEPENDENCE AND OVER THE YEARS HAD CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THIS RESPECT DESPITE CRITICISM FROM FRIENDLY AND UNFRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS. THEREFORE, WE HAD WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO REFUTE EACH FALSE AND UNFOUNDED ACCUSATION OF US INVOLVEMENT IN PLOTS AGAINST REGIME. USG WOULD NEVER BE A PARTY TO ANY SUCH ACTION.

6. AGGREY POINTED OUT THAT WITH REGARD TO ATTITUDE OF US FIRMS ON PARTICIPATION IN GUINEAN DEVELOPMENT THE USG ENCOURAGES SUCH PARTICIPATION BUT COULD NOT OF COURSE MAKE THE FINAL DECISIONS FOR THE COMPANIES. IN OUR EXPERIENCE THIS IS DETERMINED ON THE BASIS OF THE MUTUAL INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY AND THE COMPANY CONCERNED.

7. AGGREY SAID OVER MANY YEARS OF ASSOCIATION AND COLLABORATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSEM HE HAD BEEN PRIVILEGED OBSERVE NEWSOM'S HIGH INTEGRITY, GREAT PROFESSIONAL SKILLS, AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO MOST EFFECTIVE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS WITH AFRICA. US POLICY TOWARD GUINEA,
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CONAKR 00698 02 OF 02 071539 Z

IN WHICH NEWSOM HAD MAJOR ROLE, WAS NOT DICTATED BY EXTERNAL FORCES BUT DETERMINED IN WASHINGTON UPON ASSESSMENT OF FACTS AND MUTUAL INTERESTS AS SEEN THERE. AGGREY CERTAIN THAT NEWSOM APPRECIATED IMPORTANCE OF TOURE'S INVITATIONS BUT TIMING WAS IMPORTANT FACTOR. THERE WERE TIMES WHEN NEWSOM COULD BEST DEFEND INTERESTS OF US- AFRICAN RELATIONS BY PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON, SUCH AS FOR UPCOMING CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY. ALSO NEWSOME HAD CONSIDERED BOKE INAUGURATION ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE OCCASION BECAUSE IT WOULD REPRESENT IMPORTANT

MILESTONE IN US- GUINEA RELATIONS. BEAVOGUI INTERRUPTED TO SAY THAT NEWSOM WELCOME AT ANY TIME. AGGREY PROMISED CONVEY DIRECTLY TO NEWSOM GREAT IMPORTANCE GUINEA GOVT ATTACHED TO HIS VISIT.

8. AGGREY SAID IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THERE WERE THOSE WHO WHO WISHED TO WEAKEN US- GUINEAN RELATIONS FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES AND THAT TWO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CONTINUE FRANK EXCHANGE TO PRESERVE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION. TOURE WOULD AGREE THAT SOME OF GUINEA'S FRIENDS WERE NOT PRESENTLY FRIENDS OF US JUST AS HE PROBABLY FELT THAT SOME OF US FRIENDS WERE NOT FRIENDS OF GUINEA. LIKEWISE, ON MATTER OF COOPERATION, IT QUITE POSSIBLE THAT GUINEA MIGHT SEEK KINDS OF ASSISTANCE FROM US THAT WE NOT IN POSITION TO PROVIDE. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND COMMON GROUNDS OF INTEREST FOR COOPERATION AND IT IS IN THESE AREAS THAT WE WISHED TO CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONS FOR OUR GREATEST MUTUAL GAIN.

9. MEETING ENDED ON WARM FRIENDLY NOTE WITH AGREEMENT THAT EXCHANGE HAD BEEN USEFUL.

TODMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CONAKR00698
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS TODMAN
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730537/aaaahyqb.tel
Line Count: 247
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <28-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971212
Subject: US- GUINEA RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, GV, US, PFOR
To: AF
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005